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Patrick Christian Photo

Tourists evacuated from the top of Bridal Veil Falls Sunday scramble to get clear of rescue helicopter.

'Copters Clear Tram Tourists

By PATRICK CHRISTIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Two helicopters plucked approximately 80 people from atop Bridal Veil Falls Sunday after they were stranded when a tram cable frayed.

"There was no problem with the cable that holds the tram and there was no danger of the tram falling," said David Grow, owner of concessions at the popular tourist spot in Provo Canyon.

Grow said operators stopped the tram after they noticed problems with a cable.

Stan Cherry of Holladay said he was watching from the base of the tram as his wife and

son rode it about 6 p.m.

When the tram reached the top, 1,228 feet above the canyon road, Cherry said he heard a twang and saw one strand of the middle cable snap and twist around about 10 feet of the cable.

Grow said the cable originally operated with only one hauling cable until about eight years ago when a second backup cable was added.

Grow said Sunday that only one hauling cable was frayed. But he said operators decided not to transport people in the tram and called in helicopters after they decided they could not repair the cable soon.

The majority of those stranded were at-

tending a company party for employees of Heaps Brick Oven, according to Provoan John Hopkins, one of those shuttled from the top of Bridal Veil Falls to the canyon floor.

"We were up there eating and having a great time when someone said the cable had broken," said Hopkins. "We thought they were joking at first."

Hopkins said Heaps employees were told that operators were working to repair the tram and were able to finish their party before they were informed that helicopters were being brought in to take them down.

Officials ruled out a landing on the roof of

(See TRAM, Page 3)



e in Fierce Beirut Battle

Christian passengers.

Their captors demanding the release of a Shiite man allegedly abducted by Christian militiamen in Christian east Beirut, but released the hostages unharmed after three hours.

Hours later barrages of artillery and rockets poured onto several west Beirut residential areas. A police officer who spoke on condition he not be identified said the police department was convinced the shelling was triggered by the kidnappings.

Police said several apartment

buildings were set on fire by exploding shells, and that hundreds of families spend the night huddled in basements or bomb shelters on both sides of the Green Line.

Artillery blasts and exploding rockets shook the capital from midnight to dawn and the wail of ambulance sirens echoed through the both halves of the city.

Moslem militiamen with jeep-mounted 106mm recoilless rifles sped to the mid-city battlefront as civilians ran for cover inside buildings and behind cars.

Druse and Shiite militiamen were

seen firing salvos of Soviet-made Katyusha and Grad rockets from truck mounted multi-barreled launchers into the Christian sector.

Several mortar rounds crashed in and around the American University of Beirut on Sunday. University officials said one Lebanese medical student was killed and two other Lebanese students were critically injured when a salvo landed on the campus.

It was the worst fighting since a Syrian-sponsored plan was launched on July 16 to curb lawlessness in Beirut's Moslem sector and its hijack-plagued airport.

Pope Condemns Policy Of Apartheid in S. Africa

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (UPI) — Pope John Paul II condemned South Africa's policy of apartheid and called for an end "to all discrimination" and "all violence destructive to mankind."

The pope, speaking before tens of thousands of black Africans Sunday at an outdoor mass, was greeted with sustained applause when he called on Pretoria to end racial separation and the violence that has rocked South Africa.

The pope's remarks, which came on the fourth day of his 12-day African tour, were the strongest he has made to date on the worsening violence South Africa.

"Let us open our hearts to the entire African continent on this feast day, this Sunday, in this island of peace," the pontiff told the crowd of more than 100,000 people.

Expressing "profound grief" for the 65 people killed in racial violence in South Africa since Tuesday, the pope prayed for an end "to all discrimination, which is not worthy of man, (and) to all violence destructive to mankind."

The Polish-born pope branded as "inhuman" South Africa's policy of racial separation before he departed on his tour.

John Paul devoted the rest of Sunday to religious themes, celebrating outdoor masses in Yaounde and Garoua, 435 miles north of the capital.



Pope John Paul II rails against apartheid.

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TRAM: Riders Shuttled Down

(Continued from Page 1)

the tram terminal and selected a site about a quarter of a mile away, near the top of the falls.

Although officials had chosen a canyon floor landing zone, helicopter pilots ruled it out and landed in a dirt parking lot farther up the canyon that had been secured by Utah County Sheriff's deputies.

"It was my first ride on a helicopter," said Hopkins, who said he had always wanted such a ride.

"I think it was great," said Howard Bolton, another of those picked off the top of the falls. He said he did not object to a tram ride up and a helicopter ride down.

But he said that there were a few who were frightened by the experience.

One woman passed out inside the helicopter and had to be carried from the aircraft after it landed.

Taraneh Holloway, a friend of the woman, said, "She was very frightened by the helicopter. She passed out and I had to slap her face inside the plane."

Holloway said her friend, Forough Lott of Ogden, had hurried from the terminal to the landing zone and may have suffered from being winded.

Paramedics treated her for hyperventilation at the scene and

then released her.

"It was scary being stranded up there," said Kathy Rhodes of Provo. "Once a helicopter came in and it seemed it couldn't land for some reason. I had never been in a helicopter. It was so scary."

"It was pretty cold up there," said Becky Palmer of Pleasant Grove, who was brought down after nightfall.

She came down with her daughter Elena, 7, who hesitantly said she liked the ride and would do it again.

Andrea Palmer of Michigan liked the helicopter ride.

"I thought it was fun. What was scary was the tram ride up, not the helicopter ride down," Palmer said. She added that it had been her life-long wish to ride in a helicopter. She said the price was perfect.

Grow said his cost could reach \$25,000, including the cost for use of the two helicopters, repair of the cables and loss of business.

"It will probably take us about a week to repair the cable," he said. He added that about 500 people a day ride the tram.

Members of the state tramway committee were meeting today with Grow to study Sunday's incident.

ange Fire Sunday



Myrna Trauntvein Photo

after 18 hours of trying to get a handle on the blaze.